

Principles of American Democracy-Honors
Spring 2019
Mrs. Avila
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Course Description

The major purpose of this course is to analyze our system of government and the historical background, fundamental concepts, and principles that underlie American democracy. The course covers the development of the Constitution, Bill of Rights, and Federalism. It also includes a study of political parties, voting and voting behavior, and elections at the national, state, and local levels. The course also covers the role and responsibilities of the three branches of government at the national, state, and local levels. This course will summarize landmark court decisions in terms of civil rights and civil liberties and will also study complex contemporary issues that confront national, state and local governments such as immigration, race, abortion gender, sexual orientation, and disabilities.

Standards can be found at the website link below:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/finalelaccsstandards.pdf>

Objective

Through the study of government and by utilizing our listening, communication, and thinking skills, you will develop into critical thinkers. See School-wide ESLRs.

Assignments

Assignments will vary. They will include

- Homework, quizzes = 30%
 - Projects/Tests = 50%.
 - Final = 20%
- Students who do not take the Midterm and Final will receive a zero, which will result in a significant drop in their final class grade.

I do not accept late assignments so please plan accordingly. No exceptions.

Academic Honesty

Cheating and Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated and will result in a parent teacher conference, an automatic zero, and a possible drop in one grade.

Grades

100-90 = A
89-80 = B
79-70 = C
69-60 = D
59-0 = F

Class Rules

Be prompt. Be polite. Be productive.

Phones must be turned off and put away during class.

Absences and Tardiness

Absences and tardiness will affect your grade.

Tardies

More than 3 tardies during a grading period will result in a "U" for cooperation AND work habits. More than 9 tardies during a semester will result in a "U" for cooperation AND work habits for your final grade.

Assignments that are not turned in when I collect them are considered late and will not be accepted. Therefore, it is important that you arrive to class on time. No exceptions.

Absences

Absences due to extracurricular activities

- If you are involved in sports, leadership, etc., you are responsible for taking tests, and quizzes on the day they are given and must turn in assignments on the due date.

Absences due to illness, family emergencies, or court dates (#1,2, and 5 only)

- Makeup quizzes, and tests must be taken **upon your return to school** before school at 7:30 am or after school. Any missing assignments that are not turned in by Friday (during the week of your absence) will result in a zero.

Disclaimer

Content taught in class is based on California State Standards, which covers the study of the human condition and human nature. Therefore, topics discussed in class may be controversial and as such, things said are not my opinion unless otherwise stated.

Print Your Name

Student Signature

Date

Parent's Signature

Date